4/8/87 58895-1

WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

VOL. 24 NO. 3 MARCH 1987

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	Dec '86	Jan '87
Labor Force	239,517	237,933
Employment	216,223	212,673
Unemployment	23,294	25,260
Rate (Raw)	9.7	10.6
Rate (S.A.)	9.6	9.2
Mining Hourly Wage	$14.77	$15.48
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	43.9	44.1
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	6.7	6.7
Mining Hourly Wage	$12.61	$12.65
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	42.4	42.3
Consumer Price Index		
All Urban 1967 = 100		
U.S. City Avg.	331.1	333.1
Year Change (U.S.)	+1.1	+1.4

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Funding For Unemployment Insurance
- 1987 Wyoming Affirmative Action Data Package Available
- There Goes The Neighborhood
- Labor Force Figures Revised

IN THE U.S.A.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics both seaonally adjusted employment and unemployment rose during the first month of 1987. While the number employed rose an estimated 374,000, the number of unemployed increased by approximately 74,000 over the month. The civilian seasonally adjusted unemployment rate stayed the same as December's 6.7 percent.

The number of unemployed people in the United States totaled 8.0 million, seasonally adjusted in January. The number of employed persons in that same month was estimated to be 111.0 million.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)

WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section

Prepared in conjunction with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In January, the lowest unemployment, 5.1 percent, was held by adult white women. Adult white males followed closely behind with a rate of 5.3 percent. The highest rate, 39.5 percent, was held by black youth 16-19 years of age.

The average duration of unemployment in the U.S. during January was 15.0 weeks, the same experienced one year ago. The national workforce, total workers, increased annually with the most notable gains occurring in services, retail trade and construction.

STATE'S RATE INCREASES

Wyoming's unemployment rate for January, at 10.6 percent, was up seasonally from the December rate of 9.7 percent. The January rate was the highest recorded in the state since February of 1963, when the rate was 11.4 percent. The January rate, compared to 9.3 percent a year ago, was up well over one percent.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in January was 9.2 percent, also up over one percent from the year ago rate of 8.1 percent. The Wyoming civilian labor force declined seasonally from December by almost 1,600 workers to 237,900, and was also down from a year ago. Year-to-year, total employment declined by almost 8,000 workers to 212,700.

COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

Around the state, twelve counties indicated annual labor force declines. The areas indicating labor force growth tended to be those not heavily dependent on energy related employment. Laramie County, whose economy is buffered by a large number of government employees, registered the largest worker gain in the state and had an unemployment rate of only 7.4 percent, down from the previous year. Other counties indicating annual worker growth were Crook, Goshen, Johnson, Sweetwater and Teton.

During January, seventeen of the 23 counties in the state had double-digit unemployment rates. Eleven, including Natrona, had unemployment that exceeded twelve percent of the labor force. Uinta County was the highest, at 14.7 percent, which compares with a rate of 2.6 percent in January, 1981. Next was Big Horn at 13.7 percent, Carbon and Sweetwater had rates of 12.8 percent, Converse had 12.5 percent, and Fremont and Platte counties had rates of 12.4 percent. Teton and Albany counties had the lowest unemployment with rates of 6.0 and 6.3 percent.

FUNDING FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

There seems to be some confusion over how the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Program is funded. The UI Program has two sources of funding. The first source comes from a payroll tax called the Federal Unemployment Insurance Act (FUTA) which is paid to the Internal Revenue Service, and is used for the administration of the UI Program. The receipts reside in the U.S. Treasury and are allocated by Congress to the federal Department of Labor which, in turn allocates administration dollars to the states. For Fiscal Year 1985 Wyoming's employers paid an estimated $10.8 million in FUTA taxes.

The second source of funds is the payroll tax employers pay directly to the Wyoming Employment Security Commission. These contributions are used exclusively for the payment of unemployment insurance benefits. During Fiscal Year 1985 employers contributed just over $47 million.

The bottom line is that Wyoming employers fund the UI Program in the state through both FUTA and UI contributions and that the UI Program draws nothing from the state's budget. Together, both taxes totaled almost $58 million in Fiscal Year 1985 and that helped more than 15,700 of Wyoming's unemployed.

1987 WYOMING AFFIRMATIVE ACTION DATA PACKAGE AVAILABLE

The 1987 Wyoming Affirmative Action Data Package is now available through your local Job Service or from the Research and Analysis Section of the Wyoming Employment Security Commission.

The "Package" provides population and workforce data on women and minority groups and aids employers in developing plans for hiring members of these groups. The information is available for all counties and statewide. Any additional questions concerning the Affirmative Action Program should be addressed to: Oralia G. Mercado, Equal Employment Officer.

THERE GOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD

In a recent *USA Today* article, Allied Van Lines reported that of all households moved into and out of Wyoming in 1986 by Allied, 63.1 percent moved out—the USA's third highest exit percentage. States with a higher exit percentage were Iowa and North Dakota with 64.5 and 72.2 percent respectively. During 1985 the exit percentage in Wyoming was 55.2 percent. The increased out migration during 1986 is clearly due to the state's economic downturn.

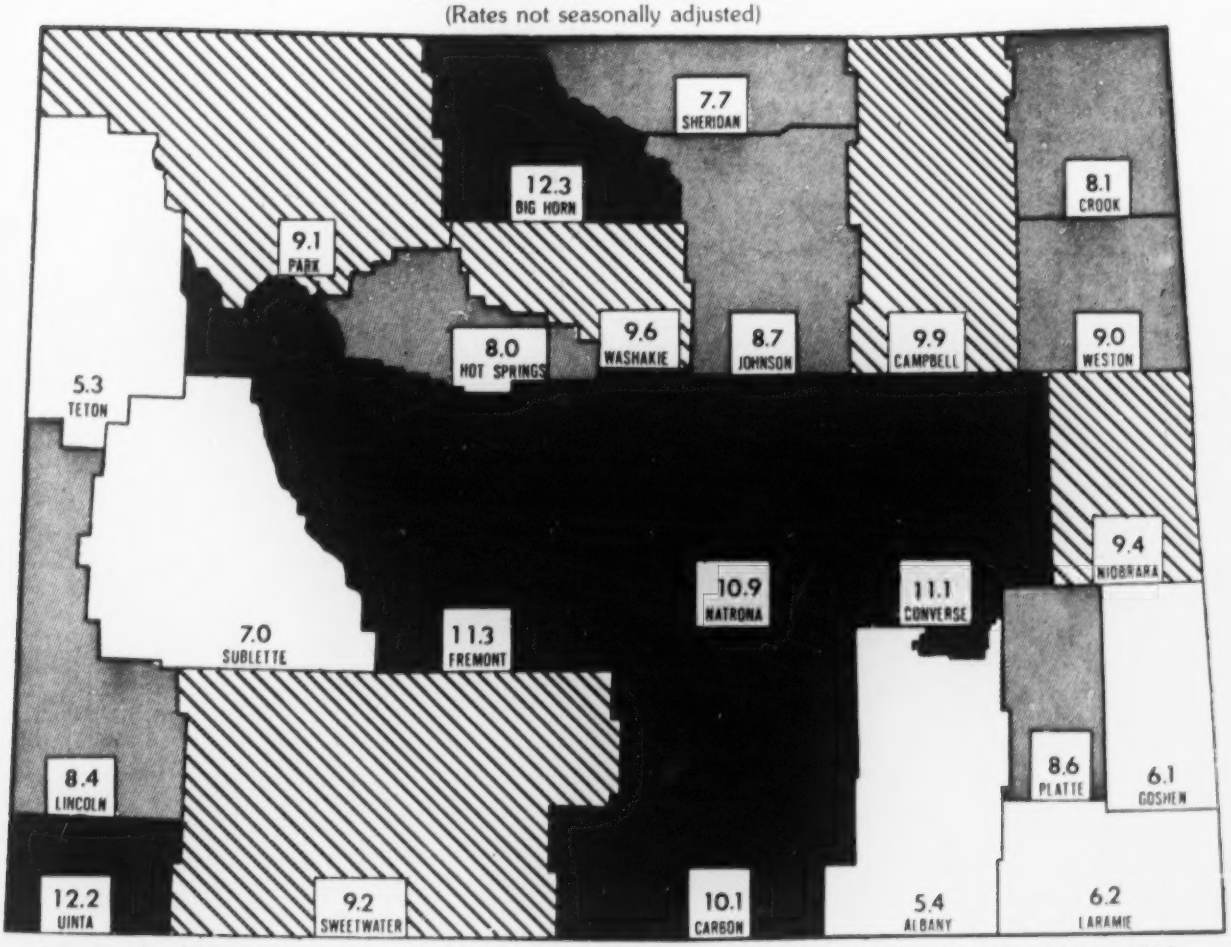
LABOR FORCE FIGURES REVISED

The Research and Analysis Section has completed its benchmarking of the 1986 Labor Force Data. The data will undergo a final benchmarking in 1988.

During March the Section will be doing the final benchmarking of the 1985 Labor Force Data. The revised figures are available from the Section for anyone interested.

(see graph page 3)

WYOMING UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY COUNTY
1986 ANNUAL AVERAGES
(Rates not seasonally adjusted)



Prepared by: WESC, Research and Analysis in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, March, 1987

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES: **WYOMING** **9.0%**
UNITED STATES **7.0%**

Above 10.0 percent.

Above Wyoming's rate, 10.0 percent or lower.

Above U.S. rate, Wyoming rate or lower.

U.S. rate or lower.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1967 = 100)
ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD & BEVERAGE	HOUSING	ENTER-TAINMENT	APPAREL & UPKEEP	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
January 1987	333.1	320.5	363.9	278.3	207.1	308.5	449.6
Annual % Change	1.4	4.1	2.0	2.8	1.0	-4.8	7.5

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 1

WYOMING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	JAN 1987[1]	DEC 1986[1]	JAN 1986[2]	Percent change From A Month Ago	Percent change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	237,933	239,517	243,126	- 0.7	- 2.1
Unemployment	25,260	23,294	22,569	8.4	11.9
Employed Labor Force	212,673	216,223	220,557	- 1.6	- 3.6
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law)[3]	180,200	190,700	186,294	- 5.5	- 3.2
b. Agriculture[3]	6,061	7,771	6,174	- 22.0	- 1.8
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	10.6% 9.2%*	9.7% 9.6%*	9.3% 8.1%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	7.3% 6.7%*	6.3% 6.7%*	7.3% 6.8%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)[4]	5.1%	4.3%	3.9%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 682.67	$ 648.40	$ 621.53	5.3	9.8
Average Weekly Hours	44.1	43.9	45.4	0.5	- 2.9
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 15.48	$ 14.77	$ 13.69	4.8	13.1
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	45,864	45,821	37,619	0.1	21.9
a. Initial	5,713	5,089	5,816	12.3	- 1.8
Weeks Compensated	42,225	42,700	29,228	- 1.0	44.6
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 6,955,194	$ 7,001,666	$ 4,601,047	- 0.7	51.2
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 164.34	$ 163.66	$ 157.12	0.4	4.6
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	3,954	3,184	5,827	24.2	- 32.1
Non-Ag. Openings Received	1,503	1,964	2,721	- 23.5	- 44.8
Non-Ag. Placements	1,395	1,920	2,519	- 27.3	- 44.6
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 535.10	$ 534.66	$ 543.46	0.1	- 1.5
Average Weekly Hours	42.3	42.4	44.4	- 0.2	- 4.7
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 12.65	$ 12.61	$ 12.24	0.3	3.3
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1967 = 100	333.1	331.1	328.4	0.6	1.4
Producer Prices, All Commodities	300.9	298.1	308.9	0.9	- 2.6
Food and Beverage 1967 = 100	320.5	317.0	307.8	1.1	4.1

[1] Preliminary. [2] Final. [3] Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Source: Wyoming Employment Security Commission and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	JAN 1987	DEC 1986	JAN 1986	%CHANGE DEC-JAN	%CHANGE JAN-JAN	JAN 1987	DEC 1986	JAN 1986	JAN 1987	DEC 1986	JAN 1986
Statewide	237,933	239,517	243,126	- 0.7	- 2.1	25,260	23,294	22,569	10.6	9.7	9.3
Statewide - Seasonally adjusted									9.2	9.6	8.1
Albany	14,574	14,829	14,952	- 1.7	- 2.5	917	849	1,102	6.3	5.7	7.4
Big Horn	4,449	4,635	4,472	- 4.0	- 0.5	611	606	494	13.7	13.1	11.0
Campbell	16,000	16,012	17,545	- 0.1	- 8.8	1,760	1,484	1,387	11.0	9.3	9.7
Carbon	8,085	8,168	8,071	- 1.0	0.2	1,034	893	1,009	12.8	10.9	12.5
Converse	6,159	6,113	6,477	0.8	- 4.9	769	691	768	12.5	11.3	11.8
Crook	2,745	2,784	2,638	- 1.4	4.1	285	269	250	10.4	9.6	9.5
Fremont	16,105	16,259	16,192	- 0.9	- 0.5	1,992	1,939	2,196	12.4	11.9	13.6
Goshen	5,801	6,135	5,717	- 5.4	1.5	371	378	404	6.4	6.2	7.1
Hot Springs	2,763	2,884	2,799	- 4.2	- 1.3	241	212	192	8.7	7.3	6.8
Johnson	3,456	3,467	3,199	- 0.3	8.0	419	371	319	12.1	10.7	10.0
Laramie	35,577	35,560	33,682	0.0	5.6	2,642	2,540	2,612	7.4	7.1	7.8
Lincoln	8,044	7,913	11,984	1.7	- 32.9	926	885	885	11.5	11.2	7.4
Natrona	32,692	32,988	34,440	- 0.9	- 5.1	3,984	3,673	3,440	12.2	11.1	10.0
Niobrara	1,454	1,541	1,486	- 5.6	- 2.2	134	133	179	9.2	8.6	12.1
Park	12,033	12,083	11,917	- 0.4	1.0	1,297	1,162	1,122	10.5	9.6	9.4
Platte	4,040	4,055	3,922	- 0.4	3.0	503	490	419	12.4	12.1	10.7
Sheridan	12,040	12,033	12,343	0.1	- 2.5	1,209	1,065	1,245	10.0	8.9	10.1
Sublette	3,542	3,469	4,779	2.1	- 25.9	434	390	297	12.2	11.2	6.2
Sweetwater	21,857	21,956	20,509	- 0.5	6.6	2,795	2,614	1,857	12.8	11.9	9.1
Teton	7,710	7,554	7,373	2.1	4.6	465	441	592	6.0	5.8	8.0
Uinta	10,718	10,930	10,483	- 1.9	2.2	1,574	1,466	1,114	14.7	13.4	10.6
Washakie	4,594	4,584	4,709	0.2	2.4	561	435	407	12.2	9.5	8.7
Weston	3,499	3,565	3,433	- 1.9	1.9	365	312	282	10.4	8.7	8.2
United States									7.3	6.3	7.3
United States - Seasonally adjusted									6.7	6.7	6.8

* The data contained in this table includes updated procedures mandated by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition the 1985 data has been benchmarked to the Current Population Survey as conducted in Wyoming.

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	JAN 1987[2]	DEC 1986[3]	JAN 1986	DEC 1986	JAN 1986
	Total	Total	Total	to JAN 1987	to JAN 1987
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	185.9	191.2	199.3	- 2.8	- 6.7
Manufacturing	8.0	8.2	7.8	- 2.4	2.6
Durable Goods	3.5	3.6	3.3	- 2.8	6.1
Nondurable Goods	4.5	4.5	4.5	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.0	- 11.1
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	177.9	183.0	191.5	- 2.8	- 7.1
Mining	17.2	18.1	23.0	- 5.0	- 25.2
Contract Construction	11.1	12.4	17.3	- 10.5	- 35.8
Transportation & Public Utilities	13.9	14.1	14.5	- 1.4	- 4.1
Railroad Transportation	2.0	2.0	2.2	0.0	- 9.1
Transportation except Railroads	5.6	5.8	5.8	- 3.4	- 3.4
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	6.2	6.3	6.6	- 1.6	- 6.1
Wholesale & Retail Trade	43.9	44.8	44.5	- 2.0	- 1.3
Wholesale Trade	8.0	8.2	8.9	- 2.4	- 10.1
Retail Trade	35.8	36.6	35.6	- 2.2	0.6
Food Stores	5.5	5.6	5.4	- 1.8	1.9
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	5.6	5.7	5.5	- 1.8	1.8
Eating & Drinking Places	13.4	13.5	13.0	- 0.7	3.1
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	8.0	8.0	8.0	0.0	0.0
Services	30.7	31.2	31.3	- 1.6	- 1.9
Personal Services	1.8	1.8	1.9	0.0	- 5.3
Medical & Other Health Services	6.5	6.5	6.5	0.0	0.0
Government	53.2	54.4	52.9	- 2.2	0.6
Federal Government	7.1	7.1	7.0	0.0	1.4
State & Local Government	46.1	47.3	45.9	- 2.5	0.4
State Government	13.6	14.0	13.6	- 2.9	0.0
Local Government	32.5	33.3	32.3	- 2.4	0.6

(See Footnotes at End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3 (Cont'd) *(Publication of Casper and Cheyenne data is not sanctioned by the Bureau of Labor Statistics)*

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	JAN 1987[2]	DEC 1986[3]	JAN 1986	DEC 1987	JAN 1986
	Total	Total	Total	to JAN 1987	to JAN 1987
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	27.5	28.3	30.9	- 2.8	- 11.0
Manufacturing	1.2	1.3	1.3	- 7.7	- 7.7
Nondurable Goods	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	26.3	27.0	29.6	- 2.6	- 11.1
Mining	2.4	2.5	3.9	- 4.0	- 38.5
Oil & Gas Extraction	2.2	2.3	3.8	- 4.3	- 42.1
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Contract Construction	1.4	1.6	1.5	- 12.5	- 6.7
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.7	1.8	2.0	- 5.6	- 15.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	8.3	8.5	9.0	- 2.4	- 7.8
Wholesale Trade	2.6	2.7	3.2	- 3.7	- 18.8
Retail Trade	5.6	5.8	5.8	- 3.4	- 3.4
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.5	1.5	1.6	0.0	- 6.3
Services	4.8	4.9	5.4	- 2.0	- 11.1
Government	6.2	6.3	6.1	- 1.6	1.6
Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
State & Local Government	5.5	5.6	5.4	- 1.8	1.9
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	30.2	30.6	29.8	- 1.3	1.3
Manufacturing	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.0	10.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	29.1	29.5	28.8	- 1.4	1.0
Contract Construction	1.6	1.8	1.7	- 11.1	- 5.9
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.6	2.6	2.6	0.0	0.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	7.5	7.7	7.4	- 2.6	1.4
Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	6.7	6.8	6.5	- 1.5	3.1
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.9	1.9	2.0	0.0	- 5.0
Services & Miscellaneous	5.3	5.3	5.1	0.0	3.9
Government	10.3	10.3	10.1	0.0	2.0
Federal Government	2.7	2.7	2.6	0.0	3.8
State & Local Government	7.5	7.6	7.5	- 1.3	0.0

[1] Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. [2] Subject to revision. [3] Revised figures.

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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

The *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* is published monthly by the Research and Analysis Section of the Wyoming Employment Security Commission.

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VOL. 24 NO. 4 APRIL 1987

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All Urban 1967 = 100		
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S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Annual Averages 1986
- Hot Off The Press
- Wyoming's Cost of Living Down
- Worker Dislocation: The Price Of A Competitive Economy

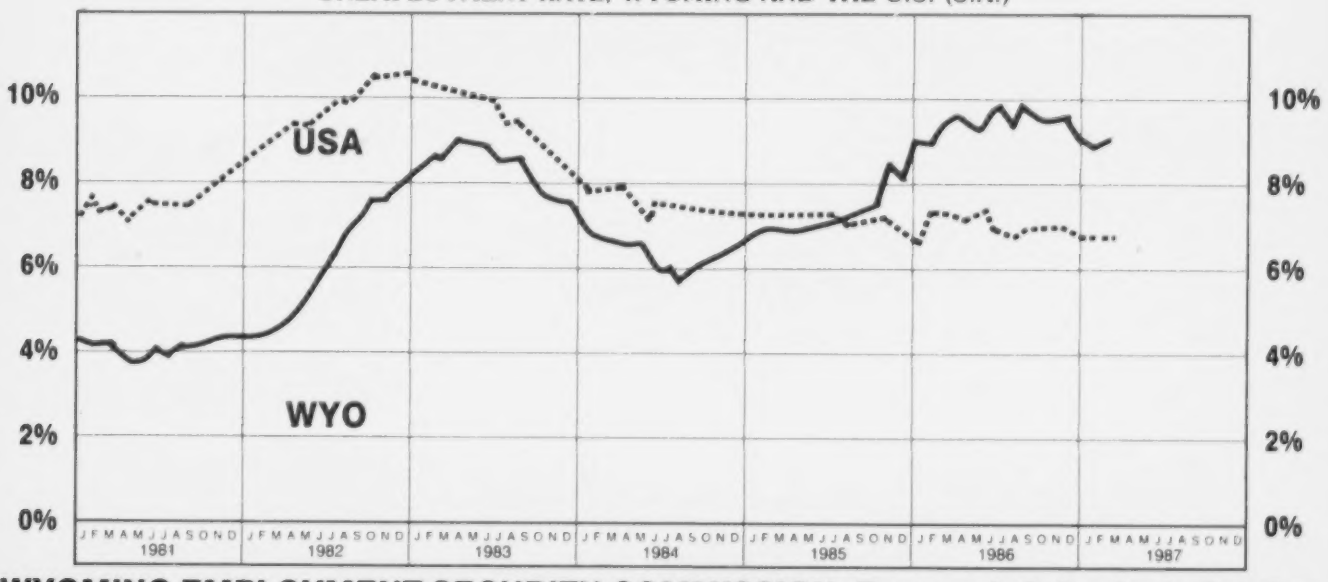
NATIONAL NEWS

Nationally, improved economic conditions were evident as the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that during February the number of unemployed fell by 56,000, and that the number of jobholders grew by 371,000. The total civilian labor force, pegged at 119.3 million was up about 2.3 million compared to last year.

The rate of unemployment echoed the good news as it remained unchanged for the third consecutive month, at 6.7 percent, seasonally adjusted. When compared to last year, the rate of joblessness was down 0.5 percent.

In February, the lowest unemployment, 4.9 percent, was held by adult white women. The highest rate, 38.9 percent, was held by black youth 16-19 years of age.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)



WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section

Prepared in conjunction with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The average duration of unemployment in the U.S. during February was down to 14.6 weeks compared to January's average of 15.0 weeks. The national workforce, total workers, increased annually in all industries except mining, instruments and related, and apparel and other textile products.

SURROUNDING STATES

The following figures are preliminary January 1987 rates that are yet to be revised. The reason the unrevised figures are used is so that Wyoming's situation can be compared to its neighboring states, who like Wyoming, are just now sending their revisions to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Idaho who ranked 7th, one spot above Wyoming, had a rate of 10.7 percent. The remaining neighboring states had rates that were lower than Wyoming's 10.6 percent. They were Montana, Colorado, Utah, Nebraska, and South Dakota at 10.1, 9.3, 7.4, 5.7, and 5.5 percent respectively.

New Hampshire had the lowest January rate in the U.S., recording 3.0 percent. Louisiana had the highest unemployment rate by a wide margin recording a figure of 14.7 percent.

WYOMING'S UNEMPLOYMENT CONTINUES UPWARD TREND

Wyoming's unemployment continued to climb seasonally for the sixth month in a row in February, with an unemployment rate of 11.0 percent. This represents 26,200 jobseekers in the state. This compares to 10.6 percent in January and 9.6 percent in February of 1986. Seasonally adjusted the rate stood at 9.4 percent, also up from the previous month and year rates of 9.2 and 8.2 percent. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted rate was 6.7 percent in both January and February of this year.

The February civilian labor force, at 239,500, continued below year ago levels. Total employment, at 213,300, was down over 6,300 year-to-year.

Wyoming's unemployment ranked seventh highest in the nation, according to January, 1987 figures, with Louisiana, at 14.7 percent, holding the dubious honor of continuing first.

Eighteen of the state's 23 counties suffered double-digit unemployment rates during February. Thirteen counties, including Natrona, had unemployment rates that equalled or exceeded 12 percent of the labor force.

AREA LABOR FORCE TRENDS

Ten counties around the state showed annual labor force declines. As in recent months, counties indicating labor force growth tended to be those not heavily dependent on energy related industries.

Laramie County again posted the largest gain in their labor force, with an unemployment rate of 7.6 percent, about the same as last year. Other counties showing some increase in labor force were Crook, Goshen, Johnson, Sweetwater, Teton and Uinta.

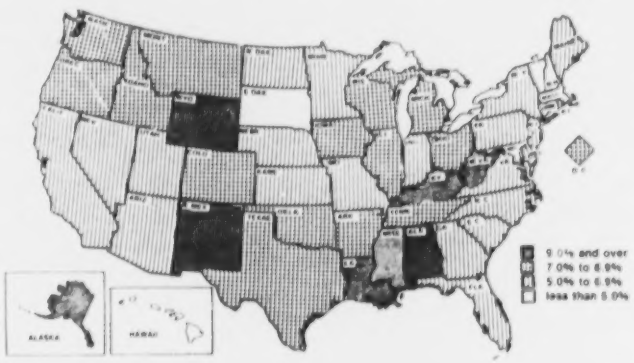
ANNUAL AVERAGE 1986

Unemployment rates declined in 1986 in 32 states and the District of Columbia, according to annual average estimates released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The annual average unemployment, at 7.0 percent for the nation as a whole, was lower than the 1985 rate of 7.2 percent.

Closer to home the news was not good. Wyoming's 1986 annual average rate of 9.0 percent was a full 2.0 percent above the national rate and left the state with the eighth highest rate. The largest year-to-year increase in rates occurred in Texas (from 7.0 to 8.9 percent) and Wyoming (from 7.1 to 9.0 percent).

Things could be worse, four states had unemployment rates of 10.0 percent or higher in 1986, one more than in 1985. Louisiana, with a rate of 13.1 percent, replaced West Virginia as the state with the highest jobless rate.

Unemployment Rates by State, 1986 Annual Averages



HOT OFF THE PRESS

The Research and Analysis (R&A) Section of the Wyoming Employment Security Commission has recently published the **1987 Wyoming Annual Planning Report**. The Report combines most of the programs in R&A along with several outside sources, in an attempt to analyze labor market developments and related problems in the state of Wyoming and its counties.

The format of the report has been changed with the expectation that the information will be easier to find and use. The publication is currently available from R&A and is free.

WYOMING'S COST OF LIVING DOWN

According to the Research and Statistics Division of the Department of Administration and Fiscal Control, the annual inflation rate reported for the period fourth quarter 1985 through fourth quarter 1986 was -1.45 percent. Fourth quarter's rate of -1.45 is the largest deflationary change from one year to the next since inflation rates have been kept in Wyoming. The main causes for the deflation were lower rental and natural gas rates along with substantially lower gasoline prices.

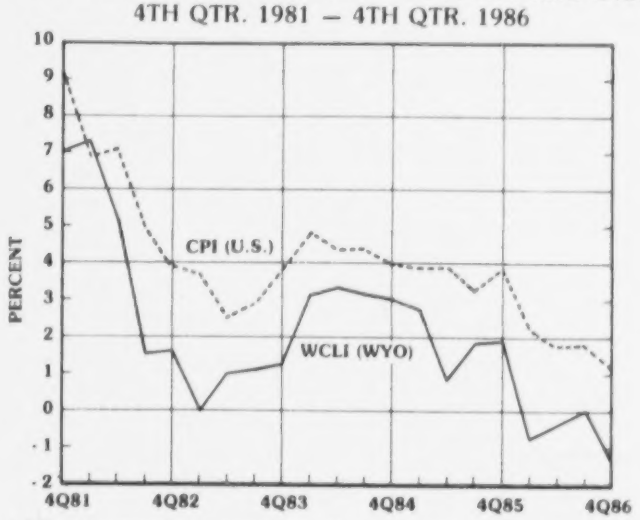
Transportation cost during fourth quarter of 1986 declined 7.65 percent from a year ago, mainly do to price decreases in regular (-24.6 percent) and unleaded (-26.7 percent) gasoline.

Medical costs continued to increase at 5.9 percent. Statewide, physician fees rose 4.6 percent, dentist fees were up 4.2 percent, and optometrist fees increased 2.4 percent from the same period one year ago.

Regionally, deflation was experienced in all five regions of the state. Led mainly by strong declines in housing and transportation, the Southwest (-2.86 percent) reported the highest deflation in the state, followed by the Central region (-1.85 percent), Northeast region (-1.45 percent), Northwest region (-1.35 percent), and the Southeast region (-0.06 percent).

Regions are defined as: Southeast-Albany, Carbon, Goshen, Laramie and Platte counties; Southwest-Lincoln, Sublette, Sweetwater, and Uinta counties; Central-Converse, Fremont, and Natrona counties; Northeast-Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Niobrara, Sheridan, and Weston counties; Northwest-Big Horn, Hot Springs, Park, Teton, and Washakie counties.

ANNUAL INFLATION RATES — WYOMING AND U.S.
4TH QTR. 1981 — 4TH QTR. 1986



Source: Wyoming Cost of Living Index, Department of Administration and Fiscal Control, Research and Statistics Division, March, 1987.
Prepared by: WESC, Research and Analysis, March, 1987.

WORKER DISLOCATION: THE PRICE OF A COMPETITIVE ECONOMY

(This is part one of a two-part series on Worker Dislocation)

Worker adjustment issues have become more widespread across the country as plant closings and permanent lay-offs affect new communities with an oil-based economy. Some of the states being impacted by the oil glut had not, until recently, been experiencing the degree of worker dislocation that has been so common in other states engaged in intense international competitive battles involving cars, steel, shoe manufacturing, and other basic industries.

The U.S. economy, always in a state of flux, has historically caused the dislocation of workers in some industries while expanding employment in others. However, as the nation shifts towards a service economy with a resultant decline in manufacturing, with the internationalization of the economy, and with the rapid pace of technological advances, worker dislocation has reached major proportions in many communities. Although many new jobs are being created, too often dislocated workers find that they lack the necessary education and skills for the new jobs, or that the available jobs pay much lower wages.

As is common when dealing with national statistics, there are difference of opinion as to the number of dislocated workers. However, at least a part of the problem can be attributed to the lack of consensus on the definition of dislocated workers. On the conservative side, an estimate of dislocated workers may be less than 200,000 if only workers from declining industries who remain jobless for more than 26 weeks are counted. On the liberal side, if all unemployed workers in declining geographic areas are considered to be dislocated workers, then the estimate would escalate to about 2.1 million.

Source: Labor Notes, National Governors' Association, February 1987.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1967 = 100)

ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD & BEVERAGE	HOUSING	ENTER-TAINMENT	APPAREL & UPKEEP	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
February 1987	334.4	321.6	365.1	278.7	208.4	310.0	452.4
Annual % Change	2.1	4.5	2.4	2.5	2.1	-2.9	7.1

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 1

WYOMING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	FEB 1987[1]	JAN 1987[1]	FEB 1986[2]	Percent change From A Month Ago	Percent change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	239,524	238,356	242,858	0.5	- 1.4
Unemployment	26,231	25,275	23,263	3.8	12.8
Employed Labor Force	213,293	213,081	219,595	0.1	- 2.9
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law)[3]	177,600	180,200	183,667	- 1.4	- 3.3
b. Agriculture[3]	7,273	6,061	7,409	20.0	- 1.8
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	11.0% 9.4%*	10.6% 9.2%*	9.6% 8.2%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	7.2% 6.7%*	7.3% 6.7%*	7.8% 7.2%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)[4]	5.5%	5.1%	4.4%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 607.11	$ 618.66	$ 611.60	- 1.9	- 0.7
Average Weekly Hours	41.3	42.0	44.0	- 1.7	- 6.1
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 14.70	$ 14.73	$ 13.90	- 0.2	5.8
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	46,007	45,864	37,607	0.3	22.3
a. Initial	3,959	5,713	4,831	- 30.7	- 18.1
Weeks Compensated	43,379	42,225	30,004	2.7	44.6
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 7,055,960	$ 6,955,194	$ 4,723,686	1.4	49.4
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 162.36	$ 164.34	$ 157.14	- 1.2	3.3
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	3,112	3,954	4,145	- 21.3	- 24.9
Non-Ag. Openings Received	1,578	1,503	2,118	5.0	- 25.5
Non-Ag. Placements	1,341	1,395	1,918	- 3.9	- 30.1
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 531.68	$ 535.09	$ 522.37	- 0.6	1.8
Average Weekly Hours	42.5	42.4	42.4	0.2	0.2
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 12.51	$ 12.62	$ 12.32	- 0.9	1.5
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1967 = 100	334.4	333.1	327.5	0.4	2.1
Producer Prices, All Commodities	302.7	300.9	304.4	0.6	- 0.6
Food and Beverage 1967 = 100	321.6	320.5	307.7	0.3	4.5

[1] Preliminary. [2] Final. [3] Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Source: Wyoming Employment Security Commission and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	FEB 1987	JAN 1987	FEB 1986	%CHANGE JAN-FEB	%CHANGE FEB-FEB	FEB 1987	JAN 1987	FEB 1986	FEB 1987	JAN 1987	FEB 1986
Statewide	239,524	238,356	242,858	0.5	- 1.4	26,231	25,275	23,263	11.0	10.6	9.6
Statewide - Seasonally adjusted									9.4	9.2	8.2
Albany	14,858	14,664	15,096	1.3	- 1.6	898	924	1,068	6.0	6.3	7.1
Big Horn	4,630	4,466	4,584	3.7	1.0	752	611	591	16.2	13.7	12.9
Campbell	16,197	16,096	17,700	0.6	- 8.5	1,949	1,763	1,653	12.0	11.0	9.3
Carbon	8,026	8,119	7,950	- 1.1	1.0	992	1,030	956	12.4	12.7	12.0
Converse	6,419	6,191	6,684	3.7	- 4.0	782	769	743	12.2	12.4	11.1
Crook	2,754	2,759	2,658	- 0.2	3.6	290	285	282	10.5	10.3	10.6
Fremont	16,341	16,189	16,243	0.9	0.6	1,967	1,993	2,062	12.0	12.3	12.7
Goshen	5,973	5,831	5,793	2.4	3.1	585	371	522	9.8	6.4	9.0
Hot Springs	2,808	2,779	2,951	1.0	- 4.8	237	242	242	8.5	8.7	8.2
Johnson	3,484	3,474	3,239	0.3	7.6	431	419	367	12.4	12.1	11.3
Laramie	35,209	35,271	33,800	- 0.2	4.2	2,688	2,647	2,522	7.6	7.5	7.5
Lincoln	8,160	8,090	11,201	0.9	- 27.1	1,003	927	879	12.3	11.5	7.8
Natrona	32,573	32,546	34,225	0.1	- 4.8	4,107	3,982	3,539	12.6	12.2	10.3
Niobrara	1,500	1,460	1,508	2.7	- 0.5	172	134	198	11.4	9.1	13.1
Park	12,099	12,099	11,953	0.0	1.2	1,265	1,268	1,198	10.5	10.5	10.0
Platte	4,065	4,009	3,997	1.4	1.7	489	500	435	12.0	12.5	10.9
Sheridan	12,199	12,098	12,393	0.8	- 1.6	1,233	1,210	1,228	10.1	10.0	9.9
Sublette	3,625	3,561	4,312	1.8	- 15.9	480	434	220	13.2	12.2	5.1
Sweetwater	22,235	21,984	20,712	1.1	7.4	2,848	2,800	1,855	12.8	12.7	9.0
Teton	7,777	7,757	7,351	0.3	5.8	490	466	562	6.3	6.0	7.6
Uinta	10,628	10,779	10,444	- 1.4	1.8	1,607	1,573	1,272	15.1	14.6	12.2
Washakie	4,423	4,617	4,579	- 4.2	- 3.4	583	561	533	13.2	12.2	11.6
Weston	3,542	3,517	3,484	0.7	1.7	382	367	337	10.8	10.4	9.7
United States									7.2	7.3	7.8
United States - Seasonally adjusted									6.7	6.7	7.2

* The data contained in this table includes updated procedures mandated by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition the 1985 data has been benchmarked to the Current Population Survey as conducted in Wyoming.

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	FEB 1987[2]	JAN 1987[1]	FEB 1986	JAN 1987	FEB 1986
	Total	Total	Total	to FEB 1987	to FEB 1987
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	185.4	186.3	196.7	- 0.5	- 5.7
Manufacturing	7.5	7.8	7.4	- 3.8	1.4
Durable Goods	3.4	3.5	3.3	- 2.9	3.0
Nondurable Goods	4.0	4.3	4.1	- 7.0	- 2.4
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.0	- 11.1
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	177.9	178.5	189.3	- 0.3	- 6.0
Mining	17.2	17.5	21.8	- 1.7	- 21.1
Contract Construction	11.0	11.4	16.0	- 3.5	- 31.3
Transportation & Public Utilities	13.9	13.9	14.2	0.0	- 2.1
Railroad Transportation	2.0	2.0	2.1	0.0	- 4.8
Transportation except Railroads	5.6	5.6	5.5	0.0	1.8
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	6.3	6.3	6.5	0.0	- 3.1
Wholesale & Retail Trade	42.8	43.6	43.9	- 1.8	- 2.5
Wholesale Trade	8.1	8.1	9.0	0.0	- 10.0
Retail Trade	34.7	35.5	35.0	- 2.3	- 0.9
Food Stores	5.5	5.5	5.4	0.0	1.9
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	5.5	5.6	5.4	- 1.8	1.9
Eating & Drinking Places	13.0	13.1	13.0	- 0.8	0.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	8.0	8.0	8.0	0.0	0.0
Services	31.8	31.7	31.7	0.3	0.0
Personal Services	1.9	1.8	1.9	5.6	0.0
Medical & Other Health Services	7.3	7.2	6.5	1.4	12.3
Government	53.1	52.5	53.7	1.1	- 1.1
Federal Government	7.1	7.1	7.0	0.0	1.4
State & Local Government	46.0	45.4	46.7	1.3	- 1.5
State Government	13.4	13.6	13.6	- 1.5	- 1.5
Local Government	32.6	31.8	33.1	2.5	- 1.5

(See Footnotes at End of Table)